

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /129 W

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P R 241530Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3592

INFO AMEMBASSY CARAVAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3236

E.O. 11652: RKI

TAGS/ PFOR, ES

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE ON CUBA

REF: A. SAN SALVADOR 3066 B. STATE 167221

1. AT SUB-SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS CASTANEDA'S REQUEST, WE HELD LENGTHY SESSION EVENING OF AUGUST 22 TO DISCUSS SALVADORAN POSITION ON VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE. ANALYSIS OF THE ISSUE WAS DIVIDED BETWEEN JURIDICAL AND VOLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. ON THE JURIDICAL SIDE, CASTANEDA AGREED THAT THE RIO TREATY REQUIRED A 2/3 VOTE

TO LIFT THE SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA AND EL SALVADOR WOULD OPPOSE A SIMPLE MAJORITY FORMULA AS RUNNING COUNTER TO ESTABLISHED JURIDICAL PROCEDURES. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, HOWEVER, HE PRESENTED MANY OF THE ARGUMENTS ADVANCED PREVIOUSLY BY FONMIN BORGONOVO (MOST RECENTLY WITH AMBASSADOR JOVA AS REPORTED REF B) HOLDING THAT TIMES HAD CHANGED, THAT CONTINUED ISOLATION OF CUBA IS NO LONGER POLITICALLY VIABLE AND THAT IF THE SUBSTANCE
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OF THE VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE SHOULD COME TO VOTE,

EL SALVADOR WOULD ABSTAIN. I, IN TUR, PRESENTED
OUR CASE STRESSING ESPECIALLY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
OUR RECENT EFFORTS AT DETANTE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES
WHO SOUGHT IT IN CONTRAST WITH CUBA'S CONTINUED
PROVOCATIVE BELLIGERENCY. CASTANEDA NOTED THAT
BORGONOVO HAD BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH GUATEMALAN
FONMIN ARANALES AND THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS SHARE
VIRTUALLY THE SAME APPRECIATION OF THE ISSUE (NOT

SURPRISING IN VIEW OF REF. A).

2. AS TO THE NEXT STEP, CASTANEDA SAID THAT GOES HAD
YET TO RECEIVE THE VENEZUELAN AIDE MEMOIRE FROM THEIR
EMBASSY IN CARACAS AND THUS HAS BEEN UNABLE TO OFFICIALLY
RESPOND. I REITERATED OUR VIEW THAT AT THIS STAGE IT
WAS IMPORTANT TO DISCOURAGE VENEZUELA FROM GOING AHEAD
WITH ITS PROPOSAL AND OUR HOPE THAT, WHENEVER, OR IF EVER,
THE GOES GETS AROUND TO REPLYING TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE
THAT ITS REPLY WOULD HAVE THAT EFFECT.
MOSKOWITZ

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